

**SECRET**NPIC/TSG/RED-178-70  
20 July 1970

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** Chief, Support Staff, NPIC  
**THROUGH** : Chief, Technical Services Group, NPIC  
**SUBJECT** : Dry Silver Printer/Processor

1. In 1965 NPIC contracted with the [ ] for the development of a "Prototype Step and Repeat Dry Silver Printer/Processor." This equipment was designed specifically to expose and develop Dry Silver photo reproduction material. The unit was completed in 1967 and has been used since then by the [ ] as a GFE printer/processor in support of the Dry Silver Development Program. It had performed satisfactorily in this capacity until early 1970 at which time it was replaced by a newer, improved, high speed Dry Silver processor. As a unique and usable tool for printing and processing Dry Silver roll film and paper materials, this unit should be transferred to a Government facility for further use.

25X1

2. Since this prototype printer/processor is slow by photo reproduction standards; i.e., 15 ft/min., accommodates only 9 1/2 inch roll film and has no automatic frame detection for film advance, the NPIC photo lab is not interested in acquiring this processor for use as production equipment. The test and evaluation plans of ESD call for the testing of a more recent piece of processing equipment which is due for delivery in the near future, rather than testing the rather limited original prototype processor.

3. The U.S. Navy has a standing fleet requirement for the conservation of distilled and chilled water for shipboard and amphibious photo processing laboratories. A good dry process photo reproduction system would solve this problem, and provide a 100% saving in photo processing liquids and chemicals. The Testing and Evaluation Lab of the Naval Photographic Center, Anacostia, Washington, D.C. is aware of the Dry Silver Program\* and has made inquiries concerning the availability of the Dry Silver Printer/Processor for this evaluation program.

\* A combined NRTSC-NPIC endeavor has already produced a very usable Dry Silver Enlarger/Printer for shipboard use.

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NIMA/DOD

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GROUP 1  
Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and  
declassification

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4. For the best utilization of Government owned property, it is recommended that the Prototype Step and Repeat Dry Silver Printer/Processor be transferred from Contract [ ] to the U.S. Naval Photographic Center for use in the Navy's Dry Silver Photo Reproduction Evaluation Program.



Chief, Research & Engineering Division, TSG

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